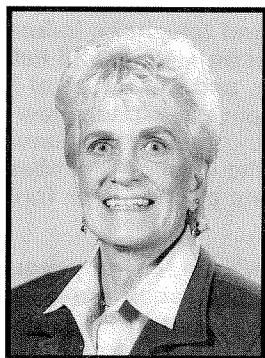


Hammerstrom's

for the people
in the 17th Senate District

Hotline



State Senator
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1-888-477-8238
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AUGUST IS NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH The number of people receiving immunizations increases at this time of year, as parents are enrolling their children in school, young adults are leaving for college, and public health officials are gearing up for the flu season. For this reason, August has been recognized as National Immunization Awareness Month. Since vaccinations have been made available, the number of people infected with measles, meningitis, chicken pox, tetanus, and hepatitis B has decreased significantly. Vaccines help the body recognize and fight germs each time it is exposed. Antibodies stay on guard in the body for years and are an important way to keep us healthy. While most vaccines are given to babies and young children, some are needed throughout our lifetime to ensure immunity. Your doctor can recommend which vaccinations are best for you. You can find more information about immunization, including phone numbers for your local health departments, on my website or by calling my office, toll-free, at 1-888-477-8238.

DID YOU KNOW? Approximately 46,000 to 48,000 adults die each year from vaccine-preventable diseases.

FLOODING CAUSES INCREASE IN MOLD AND MILDEW GROWTH Residents whose homes and businesses received water damage as a result of the severe weather that occurred from May 20 through May 24 may now be dealing with mold and mildew. The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) is encouraging residents to inspect the condition of all items in a flooded area or where there is a high level of moisture or humidity. Mold and mildew can begin to grow within 24 hours after a flood, so cleaning, disinfecting, and drying all wet surfaces as soon as possible are the best ways to prevent their spread. Wood furniture and other porous materials can trap mold and may need to be discarded. Harder materials such as glass, plastic, and metal can be cleaned and disinfected. MDCH recommends wearing rubber gloves when cleaning and opening windows for ventilation to avoid ingestion of toxic fumes. For more information about mold and mildew, including additional cleaning tips, please contact my office, toll-free, at 1-888-477-8238, or visit my website at www.senate.michigan.gov/hammerstrom.

CONSUMER FORUMS TO BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC), an agency within the Department of Labor and Economic Growth, recently announced they will hold a series of consumer forums around the state next month. Information pertaining to changes in the electric, natural gas, and telephone industries will be discussed at the forums. The forums will provide residents with the latest information on electric and natural gas rates for the winter, opportunities to select an alternative electric or natural gas provider, and the status of local and long-distance telephone service. A Commissioner will be present to discuss these changes, explain how the Commission makes decisions, and listen to questions and comments from residents regarding their utility services. The MPSC will host a forum in Monroe on September 21. The forum will begin at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Monroe City Hall. For more information about the MPSC, including other dates and locations of consumer forums, please visit www.michigan.gov/mpsc.

SCHOOL REPORT CARDS NOW AVAILABLE The 2004 EducationYES! School Report Cards, with the federally required No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) status, were released August 5. NCLB requires each state to have a single school accountability system that addresses all public schools in the state and that includes AYP in conformance with specific federal requirements. Grades were given for each of the state's 2,621 public elementary and middle schools, with high school Report Cards expected later this year. To view Report Cards for schools in your area, visit the Michigan Department of Education website at www.michigan.gov/mde. A guide to reading and understanding the Report Cards is also included on the website.

If you would like to receive future issues of Hammerstrom's Hotline via e-mail,
please contact me at SenBHammerstrom@senate.michigan.gov